### The American Consulate General in Jerusalem Announces
### 2016 TechGirls Program

## July 12 – August 3, 2016

The American Consulate General in Jerusalem, and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)'s Youth Programs Division are pleased to invite candidate nominations for the FY2016 TechGirls program. TechGirls is an educational initiative that directly supports the U.S. foreign policy goal of advancing the status of women and girls around the world, and promotes development in the field of technology to enable young women to reach their full potential in the technology industry. In summer 2016, approximately 27 teenage girls from select countries in the Middle East and North Africa will travel to the United States for a four-week, intensive exchange focused on promoting the high-level study of technology. The centerpiece of the exchange will be a weeklong technology camp with American peers at American University in Washington, D.C. The camp will be complemented by site visits, leadership workshops, community service opportunities, job shadowing, and intercultural collaboration. Participants will create action plans for community-based projects to implement upon their return to their home communities.

Program success stories include a 2015 alumna who created a coding club at her school in Tunisia as well as designed and implemented a weeklong coding challenge event (iCodeWeek) that focused on C++ programming. Two 2014 alumni from the Palestinian Territories implemented a training session on how to leverage computer programming to address community issues for nearly 200 peers at St. Joseph School in Bethlehem.

### Program Overview

Launched in 2012, TechGirls is an intensive international exchange program designed to empower young girls (ages 15-17) from the Middle East and North Africa to pursue careers in the science and technology sectors. Participating countries include Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, and Tunisia.

The goals of the TechGirls program are to: 1) Provide a program of academic study of applied technology for girls who already have a demonstrated aptitude and strong interest in the subject; 2) Empower girls to pursue higher education and careers in technology; 3) Link peers who share interests and abilities; 4) Develop the leadership skills of the participants; and 5) Promote closer ties between the United States and the countries and territories of the Middle East and North Africa. TechGirls complements the TechWomen program and echoes its goals.

The substantive U.S.-based exchange for TechGirls participants will take place **July 12 – August 3, 2016.** The academic component of the exchange will be a weeklong technology camp that will provide participants with an overview and examination of technology related topics and engage them in in-depth, hands-on instruction in areas of specific interest. Through interactive activities, participants will work towards the development of a tangible product(s) that they may design together in small teams or individually, depending on participant interests and preferences. The camp will be complemented by additional activities such as mentoring

experiences; job shadowing; site visits to technology companies; community service activities; and social, recreational, and cultural activities. Participants will also design a plan for follow-on activities to reinforce and support the skills and linkages acquired during the U.S. program. The TechGirls participants will have ample opportunity during the exchange to interact with American peers who share similar technology interests. The program will conclude with a short, substantive visit to the State Department to allow participants to debrief State representatives on their exchange experiences and individual or team projects.

**Participant Qualifications**

- Candidates must be Palestinian residents of Jerusalem, the West Bank, or Gaza Strip.

- Candidates must be fluent in English.

- Candidates must demonstrate advanced skills and a serious interest in technology through her current course work, and must exhibit enthusiasm and intent to pursue continued studies and possibly a future career in applied technology.

- A candidate's skill and interest in technology may be assessed through her previous work on technology focused projects, involvement in technology clubs at school or other technology camps, and/or active participation in relevant class work.

- Candidates must also demonstrate a general knowledge/understanding of key technology-focused topics such as coding, web design and development, game design, and/or mobile communications technology and applications.

- Candidates who are also adaptable, attentive, mature, thoughtful, curious, good-natured, articulate, respectful of peers, and have good social skills make excellent participants.

- Given that many exchange activities include small group work and opportunities to work with peers on team projects, the ability of a student to get along with her peers is important.

**Important Note:**

- Participation in the program is contingent upon the applicant qualifying for a J-1 visa to the United States.

- Holders of U.S. passports or green cards are **not eligible to participate** in this program.

**Application deadline and inquiries:**
Please submit your application form CV copy of passport by **March 01, 2016.**

Jerusalem and West Bank Applicants: Please Email CV and application to Jerusalemexchanges@state.gov and copy Sirianimy@state.gov; call 02-622-7107 for more information.

Gaza Applicants: Email CV and application to (Gazaexchanges@gmail.com ); call 08-286-4623 for more information.